

## **REMARKS**

### **Introduction**

Claims 1 - 20 were originally pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 11, 12, and 15 have been amended. Claims 2, 4, 6 - 8, and 10 have been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 11 - 14, and 16 - 20 remain pending for consideration in this application. No new matter has been added.

### **Claim Rejections**

#### **35 U.S.C. §103**

Claims 1-3, and 5-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,681,981 to McMurtry in view of US Patent No. 5,259,710 to Charles. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

On the other hand, the Examiner noted that claims 4 and 10-20 were objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. With the Examiner's suggestion in mind, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claims 2 and 4. Claims 2, 4, and 6 – 8 have been cancelled and claims 3 and 5 have been amended to change their dependencies. In addition, independent claim 9 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 10. Claim 10 has been cancelled and claims 11, 12-14, and 16-20 have been amended to change their dependencies.

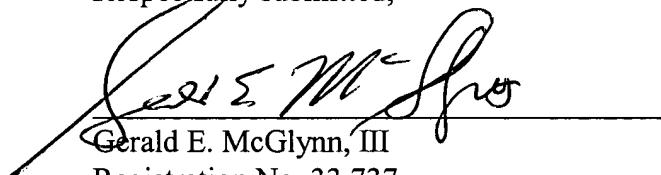
Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 9 each recite structure that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art and are patentably distinguishable from the subject

matter of the references of record in this case. Claims 3 and 5 are ultimately dependant upon independent claim 1. Claims 11 - 14 and 16 - 20 are all ultimately dependent upon independent claim 9. These claims add further perfecting limitations to the independent claims from which they depend. As such, the prior art references in combination, or each reference standing alone, do not suggest the subject invention as defined in these claims. However, and even if they did, they could only be applied through hindsight after restructuring the disclosures of the prior art in view of the applicant's invention. In this case, a combination of the prior art to derive applicant's invention would, in and of itself, be an invention.

**Conclusion**

In view of the above, applicant respectfully submits that the claims, as amended, clearly distinguish over the prior art and are therefore allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully solicits the allowance of the claims pending in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: July 29, 2004  
Attorney Docket No.: 3931.00002